

CUSTOMER NO.: 24498
Serial No. 10/535,106
Office Action dated 12/24/09
Response dated: 4/26/10

PATENT
PD020106

Remarks/Arguments

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-6 and 10-12 are pending in the application and that claims 1-6 and 10 stand rejected. The Examiner further noted that claims 11 and 12 are allowed. By this response, claims 1-6 and 10 have been cancelled to place the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the amendments presented above the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now remaining in the Application are now in allowable form.

Rejections

A. 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected the Applicants' claims 1-6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Tsukagoshi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,424,792, hereinafter "Tsukagoshi") in view of Yonezawa (JP Pat. No. 10-108129).

The Applicants have herein cancelled claims 1-6 and 10 to further the prosecution of this patent application to allowance with the allowable claims 11 and 12. However, the Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of claims 1-6 and 10 in subsequent prosecution in another continuing application, which the Applicant intends to file shortly.

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Conclusion

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Thus, the Applicants submit that none of the claims, presently in the application, are rendered obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance, as conceded by the Examiner. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned.

Please charge the \$130 fee for the Petition for a One Month Extension, and any unpaid, additional fees that may be due, to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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